

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 ACDA-12
H-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
/059 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:BKBODINE:SLB/LHW
APPROVED BY P:DNEWSOM
PM:RERICSON
T:LBROWN
NSC:WBQUANDT
S/P:ARAFEAL
ACDA:MDOBRO
NEA/RA:WGROSS NEA:WRCRAWFO
DOD/ISA:RMURRAY

-----091891 240240Z /64
O 240038Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
USMTM RIYADH IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
SECDEF IMMEDIATE 1052

S E C R E T STATE 215076

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE, US

SUBJECT: US SUPPORT FOR NORTH YEMEN: FOLLOW-UP TO SIKES

REF: (A) SANA 4151 (B) STATE 211465

1. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE POSITIVE TONE OF
MEETING REPORTED REF A, PARTICULARLY SALIH'S APPARENT WILL-
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INGNESS/DESIRE TO DISCUSS OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP IN A
PHASED CONTEXT. WE BELIEVE THIS GIVES CHARGE EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK YARG ACCEPTANCE OF INITIAL PACKAGE.
OUR CURRENT THINKING IS THAT PROPOSAL SHOULD BE PRESENTED
AS RESPONSE TO SIKES MEETING AND SALIH'S OWN SUGGES-
TION ON PHASING WITHOUT REMINDER THAT SAME PROPOSAL WAS
ONCE INTEMPERATELY DISMISSED WITHOUT A REAL HEARING. WE

UNDERSTAND GENERAL CATHEY LEFT COPY OF PRESENTATION
ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR SALIH WITH EMBASSY FOLLOWING
ABORTIVE FIRST TRY. THIS MAY SERVE AS BASIS OF TECHNICAL
SIDE OF PRESENTATION.

2. IN PRESENTING PROPOSAL CHARGE SHOULD DRAW ON GUIDANCE
CONTAINED REF (B) AND STRESS FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE SEEK A CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH YAR IN ASSIS-
TING ITS DEFENSE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE IMMEDIATE
CONCERNS TO YARG--BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL--THAT
SHOULD BE MET. TOWARD THIS END WE ARE PREPARED TO AIRLIFT
TO SANA BEGINNING EARLY SEPTEMBER MUCH OF THE EQUIPMENT
INCLUDED IN WHAT WE PROPOSE AS A FIRST STAGE. ACCOMPANY-
ING THIS AIRLIFT WILL BE U.S. PERSONNEL EQUIPPED TO ASSIST
THE YEMENI ARMED FORCES IN QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY
LEARNING TO USE AND MAINTAIN THE EQUIPMENT.

-- IF SALIH WISHES, AND WE ARE INFORMED IN NEXT FEW
DAYS, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO DELIVER EQUIPMENT AND RELATED
U.S. PERSONNEL TO ENSURE THAT A GOOD SHOWING IS MADE AT
THE NATIONAL DAY PARADE ON SEPTEMBER 26. WE MUST KNOW
ASAP OR IT WILL BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO
HAVE THE EQUIPMENT IN SANA AND OPERATIONAL IN TIME.

-- U.S. EFFORT WILL NOT BE LIMITED TO PREPARATIONS FOR
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SEPTEMBER 26 ANNIVERSARY. ASSISTANCE AND DELIVERIES
WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ALL THE ITEMS IN FIRST PHASE HAVE BEEN
RECEIVED AND YEMENI FORCES HAVE BEEN ADEQUATELY INSTRUCTED
IN THEIR USE.

-- THIS PACKAGE, INCLUDING THE AIRLIFT AND THE TRAINING
ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS THE EQUIPMENT, WE HOPE WILL BE
ACCEPTED AS BOTH A SYMBOL OF OUR POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND
AS EVIDENCE OF OUR CONCERN FOR YEMEN'S SECURITY.

-- AS WE
AND THE YARG CONTINUE TO ASSESS THE YEMEN ARMED FORCES'
ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY HANDLE THIS FIRST TRANCHE AND
THE THREAT THAT NORTH YEMEN PERCEIVES, WE WILL
REVIEW WHICH ADDITIONAL ITEMS IN APPROPRIATE TYPES AND
QUANTITIES WILL BEST SERVE YEMEN'S PURPOSES. SALIH
SHOULD, HOWEVER, UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE WE ARE ACTIVELY
REVIEWING REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT WE ARE NOT
PREPARED OR ABLE AT THIS TIME TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS ON
SPECIFIC TYPES OR NUMBERS.

-- WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE YARG AND THE SAG ON THIS PROGRAM WHICH IS IN ALL OUR INTERESTS TO SEE RESULTIN PROVIDING A MEANINGFUL DEFENSE FOR THE YAR. WE ALL RECOGNIZE THAT THIS WILL NOT COME OVERNIGHT, THAT IT MUST BE PURSUED STEP-BY-STEP AND WITH FULL COOPERATION AND MUTUAL TRUST BETWEEN THE PARTIES: YARG, SAG, AND USG.

3. FYI: PRIME MINISTER AL-GHANI IS CURRENTLY EXPECTED TO BE IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 28 TO AUGUST 30. HE WILL BE MEETING WITH ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AUGUST 29. WE WILL USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE YOUR EFFORTS IN SANA WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE YARG LEADERSHIP AND HOPE BY THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER TO PROVIDE HIM WITH WHAT HE NEEDS TO EXPLAIN AND SUPPORT OUR
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POLICY--AND OUR CONSTRAINTS--TO OTHERS UPON HIS RETURN.
END FYI.

4. FOR JIDDA: IN LIGHT OF REFTTEL, WE CONCUR IN YOUR JUDGMENT THAT WE CAN ALLOW THIS DISCUSSION WITH YAR TO GO THROUGH THIS NEXT CYCLE (WHICH WE ASSUME WILL BE BY

EARLY NEXT WEEK), BEFORE REPLYING TO KING KHALID'S AUGUST 21 LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER. A POSITIVE REPLY AND A GROWING SENSE OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE FROM SALIH WILL GO A LONG WAY IN PROVIDING A POSITIVE BASIS FOR OUR SUBSTANTIVE REPLY TO THAT LETTER.
CHRISTOPHER

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